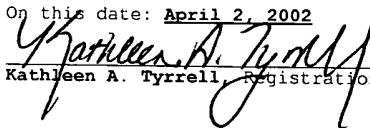


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No.: RU-0174
Inventors: Bailey and Shao
Serial No.: 09/980,360
Filing Date: November 30, 2001
Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned
Title: Modified Biodegradable Polyester
Microspheres for Stabilizing and
Improving the Release Profile of Drugs
Encapsulated within the Microspheres

I, Kathleen A. Tyrrell, Registration No. 38,350, certify that this correspondence is being depositing with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202-0327

On this date: April 2, 2002


Kathleen A. Tyrrell, Registration No. 38,350

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, information relating to the above-identified application is hereby disclosed. Inclusion of information in this statement is not to be construed as an admission that this information is material as that term is defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

(XX) In accordance with §1.97(b), since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed either within three months of the filing date of the above-identified

application, within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of the above identified application as set forth in §1.491, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified application, no additional fee is required.

() In accordance with §1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the period set forth in §1.97(b) above but before the mailing date of either a Final Action under §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under §1.311, therefore:

() Certification in Accordance with §1.97(e) is set forth below; or

() The fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is attached.

() In accordance with §1.97(d), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of either a Final Action under §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under §1.311 but before the payment of the Issue Fee, therefore included are: Certification in Accordance with §1.97(e); Petition Requesting Consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement; and the fee of \$130.00 as set forth in §1.17(i)(1).

(**xx**) Copies of each of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 (modified) are enclosed herewith.

() In accordance with §1.98(d), copies of some or all of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 (modified)

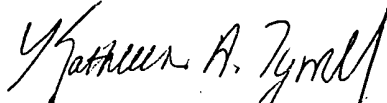
are not enclosed herewith because they were previously submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in prior application Serial No. _____, filed _____, for which a claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. §120 has been made in the instant application.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1619. This form is submitted in duplicate.

() The relevance of the listed references in a foreign language is as stated in the specification at pages @@.

(XX) All listed references are in the English language.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathleen A. Tyrrell
Registration No. 38,350

Date: April 2, 2002

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